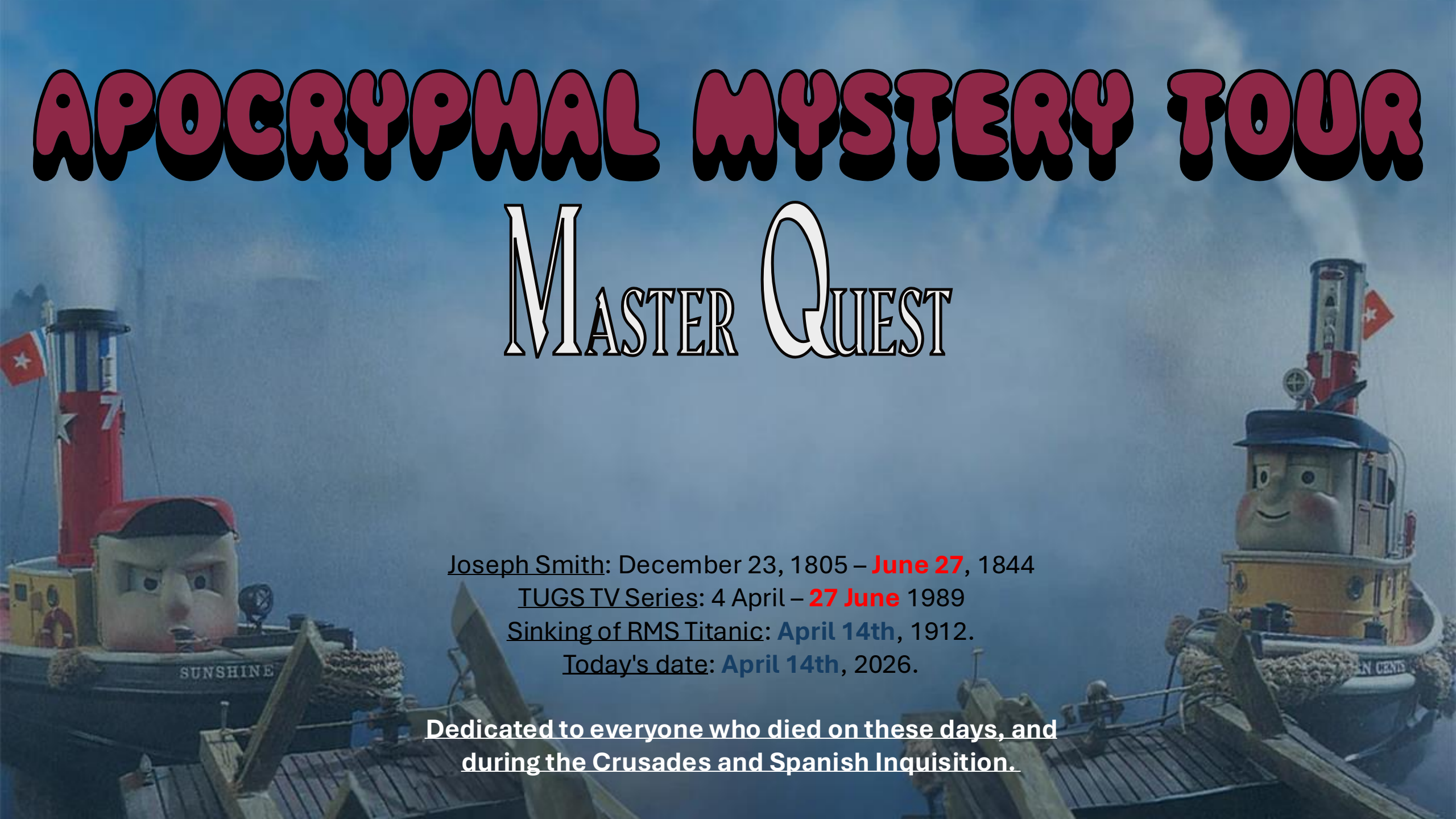
APOCRYPHAL MYSTERY TOUR

Master Quest

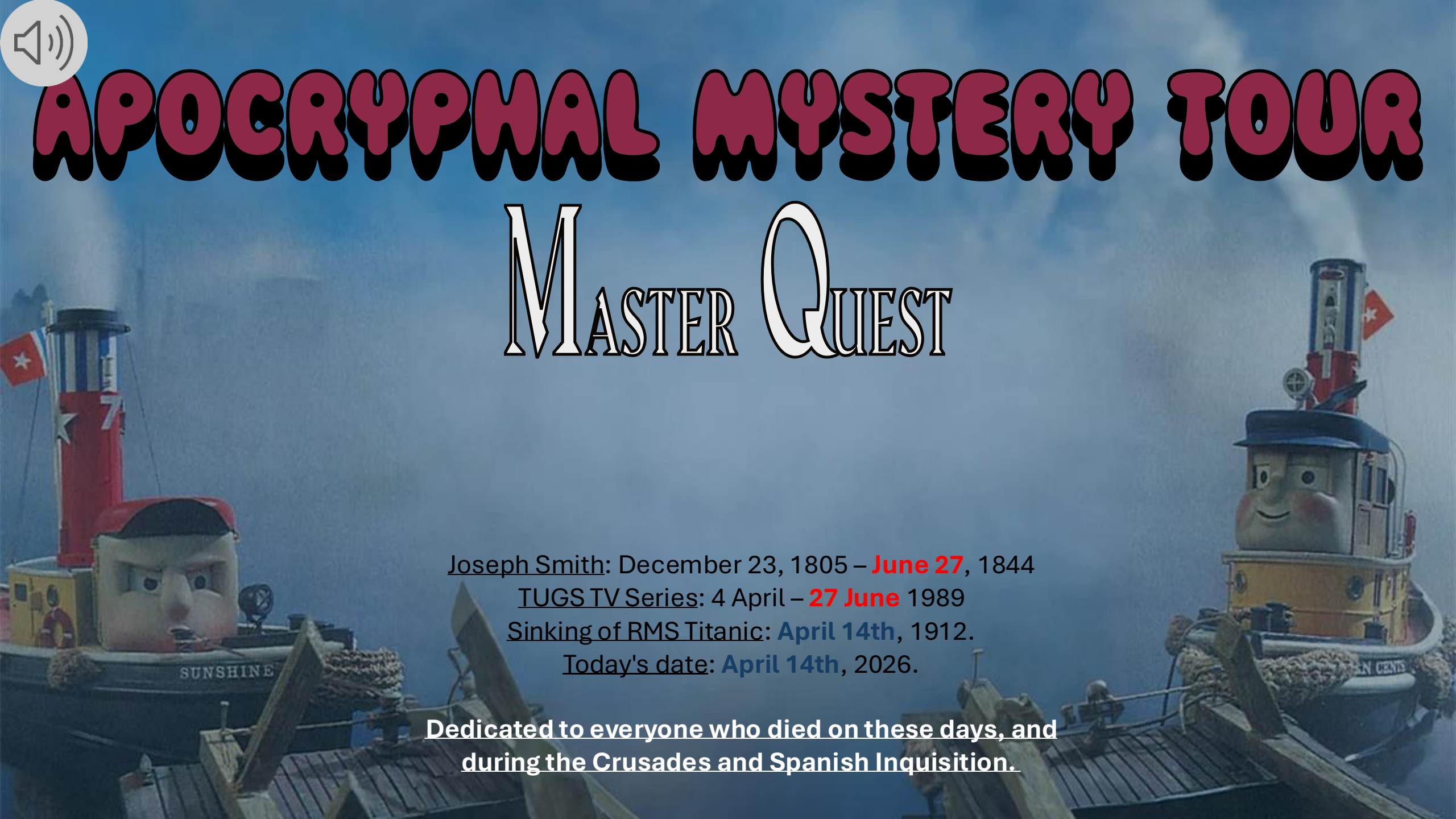


Joseph Smith: December 23, 1805 – **June 27**, 1844
TUGS TV Series: 4 April – **27 June** 1989
Sinking of RMS Titanic: **April 14th**, 1912.
Today's date: **April 14th**, 2026.

Dedicated to everyone who died on these days, and during the Crusades and Spanish Inquisition.

APOCRYPHAL MYSTERY TOUR

Master Quest



Joseph Smith: December 23, 1805 – **June 27**, 1844
TUGS TV Series: 4 April – **27 June** 1989
Sinking of RMS Titanic: **April 14th**, 1912.
Today's date: **April 14th**, 2026.

Dedicated to everyone who died on these days, and during the Crusades and Spanish Inquisition.

OVERVIEW

Opening Act: Richard
Opening Song: Near My God, To Thee

Closing Act: Eva (You didn't see this coming)

OVERVIEW

Opening Act: Richard
Opening Song: Near My God, To Thee

Closing Act: Eva (You didn't see this coming)

OVERVIEW

Opening Act: Richard
Opening Song: Near My God, To Thee

Closing Act: Eva (You didn't see this coming)

HISTORY

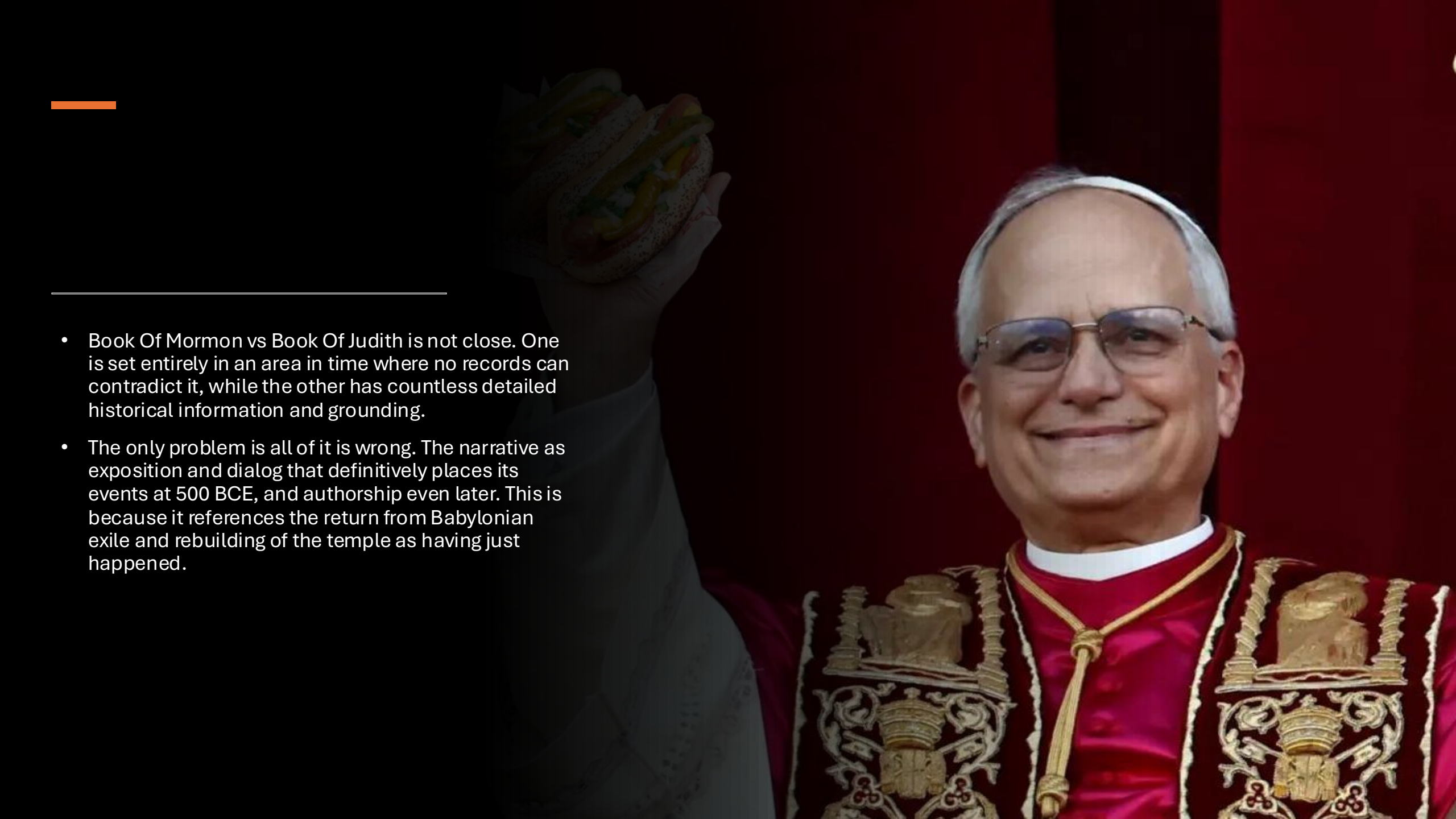
Revenge Theology

- When discussing the Mormon wars, my favorite podcast ended by saying “Guys, I feel like if God was on your side, you would have won.” Fair point.
- Counter point, I actually read the Catholic Apocrypha and history, and somehow, they are even worse.
- So, let's take the Book Of Judith, and treat it the way they treat the Book Of Mormon to see how they like it.

Initial Disrespect

- The Book Of Judith is a book with deep Jewish origins, beloved by the early Church, and still canon in the Catholic and Ethiopian church. And while the Ethiopians are chads, the same can't be said for the Catholic Church, or the translation team who brought Judith into the Greek tongue.
- I have some claims to make, with evidence to back it up, that something seriously wrong happened here out of either malice or stupidity that allowed us to get to this point. This one has everything: cat girls, Mohammed apologetics, and a lot of brutal murder, so lock in.

- Book Of Mormon vs Book Of Judith is not close. One is set entirely in an area in time where no records can contradict it, while the other has countless detailed historical information and grounding.
- The only problem is all of it is wrong. The narrative as exposition and dialog that definitively places its events at 500 BCE, and authorship even later. This is because it references the return from Babylonian exile and rebuilding of the temple as having just happened.



- The only problem is, Nebuchadnezzar is the invading king and now the king of the Assyrian army, ruling from Nineveh, invading countries and places that either no longer existed, or never existed under those names to begin with.
- Still thankfully, things get worse, as the leader of this army is brutally beheaded by a widow who seduced him under the direction of God.

Wait… what?

- Now, this could make sense as a second temple era midrash or text if we assume the historical erors are symbolism. After all, referring to invading wicked armies with Babylonian vocabulary was not uncommon back then.
- The problem with that is Judith does not read like a flowery cute book of symbolism; it reads like a historical account. This thing happened, then this thing happened.
- Nowadays people explain it away as Judith being a historical novel, but if the errors that caused us to think that were always there, why did we trust it to begin with?

- The oldest version of the book of Judith we have is Greek, but more on that later.
- Books that would have been compiled around the same time as Judith would be Daniel and Esther. These books have extended cuts exclusive to the Greek tongue with sections not in the Hebrew versions.
- If Judith had an original Hebrew version that did not have mistakes, then it could have been broken in the translation to Greek. A few select Greek translators could have taken the symbolism in Judith to be literal and unintentionally rewrote it into the broken book we have now.

- The problem with that is, that would have had to happen before 100 AD, yet long enough after 500 BCE for any information on authorship to be lost, because early Christian leaders and Jewish midrash have no idea who wrote this.
- That's a lot of stuff that would have to happen in a short amount of time, and there being no trace of any of it is odd. Normally, if an older version existed, we would have something.
- The closest we get is Jael from the book of Judges, but that would mean Judges was compiled during the second temple era, and most traditions say it was written by Samuel.

And yet, Jarone, an early Christian translator, mentions an older version of Judith he did not understand, but we do not have that manuscript to see why he did not understand it.

- It is as if this book is cursed, and that makes it more surprising the early Church and then the Catholics defended it so rigorously. Judith feels like it had to have a more normal or famous tradition behind it because early writers after the death of the apostles speak of it as a well-known thing everyone has heard of.
- Additionally, the Jews have a tradition of reading the Book Of Judith during Hanukkah, and having special meals for her, so Judith was a serious idea somewhere at some point.
- So, the questions are why do we not have any information about the Book authorship, and what tradition was strong enough to shield from criticism? It may have been written by one of the minor prophets, or someone we know nothing about. It's a mystery.
- It still could be that it is just historical fiction, but that makes its earlier defenders look foolish, because they had the same information we have now.
- It is a loop, where one answer to one question leads to 2 more, then doubles back to where we started.
- It could just be they inherited it and did not care if it were historical, but that just makes the Catholics look bad in hindsight

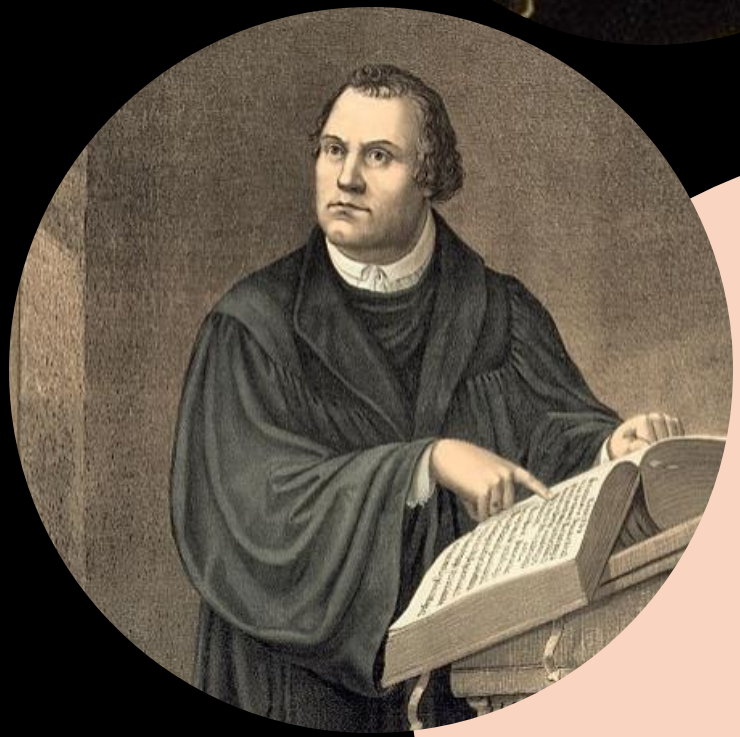
Making the Catholics Look Bad

STOP TALKING ABOUT FLDS

And now, to roast the Catholic Church.

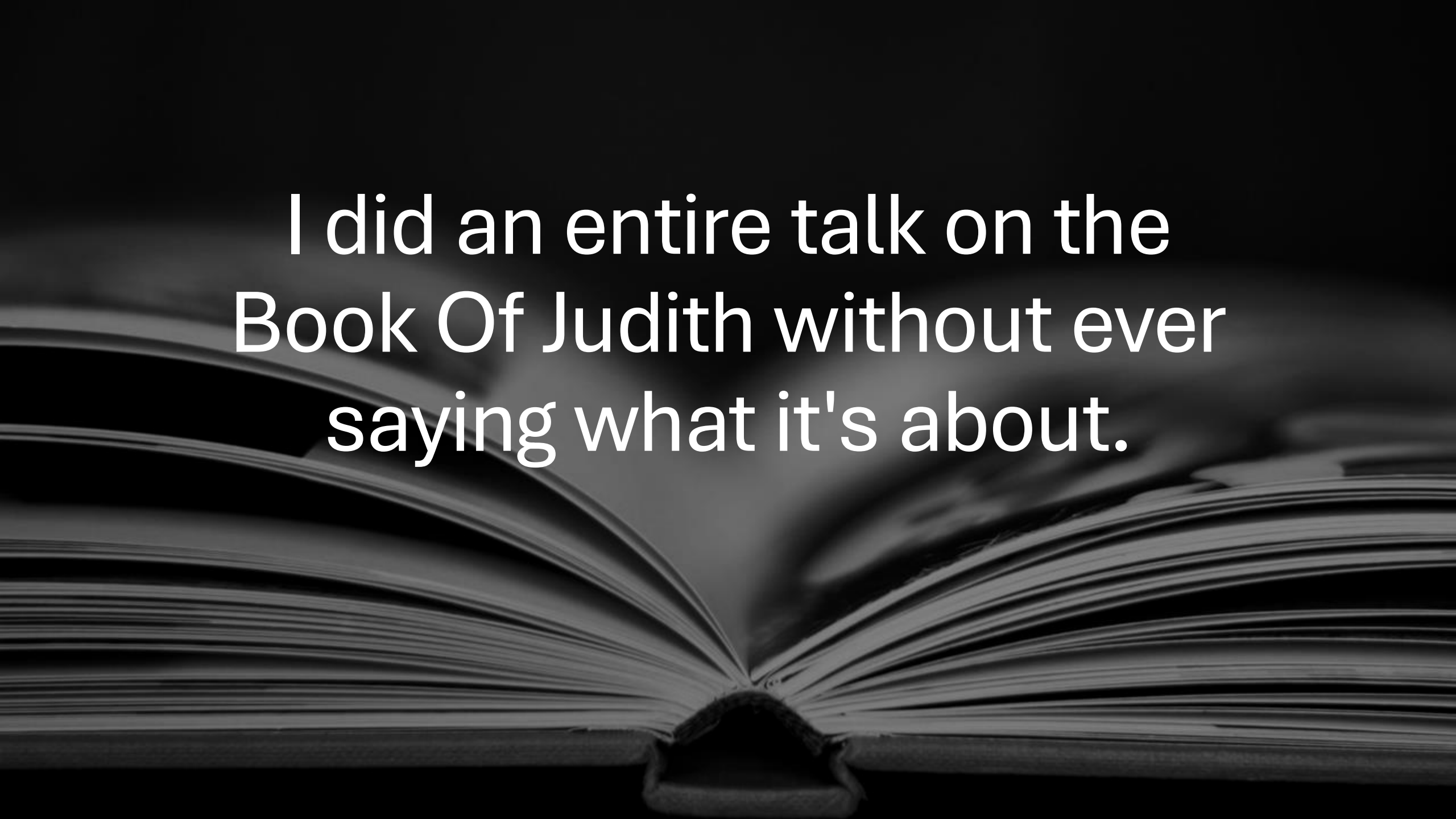
- The Catholic Church sources its authority from the apostle Peter, who is considered the first pope. However, not all popes are created equal. Famously, one tried to swindle the entire Roman Empire by claiming the church had the deed to the entire thing in the Donation of Constantine.
- The First Crusade was ordered by the church to secure control of the Holy Land after control of key sites and locations fell to the Muslims. While how many knight's wives were locked in chastity belts for the trip is debated, what is not debated is that they started strong with armies estimated at 130,000 to 160,000 men. And while a bunch of them died during the trip, it pales in comparison to the numbers of dead Muslims.
- Before you ask, yes, the jews were brutally murdered by both sides, in one case via building burning.
- Unfortunately for Pope Urban II, the crusades are remembered as a flop, as rather than unifying the Holy Land under Christianity, it created an unstable political situation that the Muslims eventually won.

- Undeterred by failure in the middle east, they doubled down in the Western North. The situation with castrating young boys for chorus or the imprisonment of Galileo are well known.
- What is not as well-known is how brutal they could get if you pushed their buttons. Reformers and break offs were often met with extreme force.
- In all fairness, they did not always start the fights, like with the Münster rebellion. However, they were really good at finishing them.



- The number of people driven to madness is staggering. We have stories of nuns going crazy and meowing and biting people, or schools gaslighting themselves into thinking they are satanic.
- Saint Nicholas tried to beat the corruption out, but Pope Formosus's dead body was put on trial by Pope Steven anyway.
- Honestly, I don't blame King Henry for leaving after one look at the record of accomplishment, and the pilgrims agreed.
- And to be clear, the Greek Orthodox and Ethiopian church didn't have anything to do with any of this. They did nothing wrong here. In fact, we owe them a lot for preserving a lot of stuff.

- But to be fair to the Catholic church, their influence spread the gospel more than any other group, and I owe my own existence to them building the Alamo. Additionally, they have countless stories of heroic Saints like Saint Patrick, and war stories like John of Arc.
- In fact, the current consensus among them is that Judith might be historical fiction but is still useful reading and a source of edification.
- I had the same opinion about the Book Of Mormon for years until I got around to actually reading it, so as far as that goes, I get where they are coming from
- However, we cannot talk about the Mormon wars as if no other Christian's have done anything wrong ever. And you know what Crusaders? Maybe if God were on YOUR side, you would have won. But I guess bullying Martin Luther and blocking translations was too important. My bad gang.


I did an entire talk on the Book Of Judith without ever saying what it's about.